



## Frommer ends session with legislative wins and losses

*Bills regarding nursing home care and Parkinson's disease signed into law, groundbreaking bills on prescription drugs and ATM fraud vetoed.*

**(SACRAMENTO, CA)** – Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) ended the 2003-04 legislative session with both wins and losses for his constituents.

### Landmark Nursing Home Care Reform Signed

Legislation by Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer that will significantly improve the quality of ailing nursing home care in California was signed into law by the Governor.

The bill will allow the state to tap into \$250 million of additional federal Medicaid funds for nursing homes and then tie increased funding for facilities to higher staffing, direct resident services and better pay and benefits for caregivers.

“These reforms respond to the crisis gripping California’s nursing homes by rewarding those who provide the quality of care our loved ones deserve,” Frommer said.

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## Freeway dedicated to fallen Burbank Police Officer

*Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer, Burbank Police Department and community members join for tribute.*

Commemorating one year after the death of fallen Burbank Police Officer Matthew Pavelka, Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer (D-Burbank) and the Burbank Police Department dedicated a 3-mile stretch of the Golden State (5) Freeway to Pavelka’s memory.

“This freeway dedication is a small tribute to the ultimate sacrifice that this young man made for all of us in this community,” Frommer said. “It will serve as a constant reminder of how our local law enforcement officials risk their lives every day to keep our community safe.”

Pavelka, 26, was killed in the line of duty on November 15, 2003, by two alleged gang members, after arriving to assist fellow officer Gregory Campbell in a routine traffic stop. Rookie Pavelka had served only 10 months with the Burbank Police Department before becoming the first

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officer killed in the department’s 82-year history. Officer Pavelka is survived by his parents, Michael and Sue, brother Nick, sister-in-law Shannon, and his girlfriend, Jessica. ♦

## Child Asthma Equipment Ensured Coverage

Children who need devices for the treatment of asthma can rest assured that their equipment will be covered under their health plan, thanks to legislation by Frommer that was signed into law.

Approximately 600,000 California children are afflicted with asthma, an increase of 160% since 1980. Asthma is considered now to be the leading cause of school absenteeism.

Assembly Bill 2185 requires health service plans to include coverage for devices designated for the treatment of asthma in children, including inhaler spacers, nebulizers and peak flow meters. In addition, the bill requires that training and education for the patients on how to use such equipment is consistent with current medical standards.

## Parkinson's Disease Registry to be Created

Frommer also introduced AB 2248, which was signed into law, to create a historic Parkinson's Disease Registry in California, which will authorize the collection of data related to Parkinson's Disease patients in the state. The registry will include demographics cancer type, extent of the disease, treatment and survival of those patients.

The bill, which was supported by the Michael J. Fox Foundation and other Parkinson's Disease organizations, is a significant step in the direction of finding a cure for a disease that affects about 200,000 in California alone.

## Governor Vetoes Prescription Drug Bills

Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed two bills by Frommer that would have combated skyrocketing prescription drug prices and brought relief to millions of Californians struggling to buy the medications they need.

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*"Americans are paying more for prescription drugs than any country in the world," Frommer said. "Democratic and Republican governors in 10 other states have stood up to the drug companies and implemented legislation like this to give citizens relief from skyrocketing prescription drug prices. In California, Governor Schwarzenegger's message to families struggling to afford prescription drugs is 'hasta la vista.'"*

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Assembly Bill 1957 by Frommer would have set up a state Web site providing price comparisons between American and

Canadian pharmaceutical prices and links to Canadian pharmacies that meet state guidelines for safety, access and affordability. Another bill, AB 1958 by Frommer, would have allowed state agencies, HMOs and small businesses that all buy prescription drugs to join forces and negotiate for lower prices from pharmaceutical companies by buying in bulk.

Both bills passed the Assembly and Senate with bipartisan support, and both were vetoed by the Governor.

## Schwarzenegger vetoes autism bill for children

The Governor also vetoed AB 839 by Frommer which would have established an Autism Resource Center for California – a sort of one-stop location where parents of children with autism could find all the resources and information they need to navigate available state and educational programs. ♦

## Turkey Giveaway

(GLENDALE, CA) -- Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer (D-Glendale) and City Councilman Frank Quintero gave out turkeys and all the trimmings for Thanksgiving dinner this year to 100 needy families in Glendale and North Hollywood.

Partnering with Ralphs and the East Pasadena Water Co., Frommer provided 100 families in Glendale and North Hollywood with Thanksgiving dinner, including turkeys, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, sweet potatoes and corn. The food was paid for through generous donations from East Pasadena Water Co. and Ralphs. ♦



## Maple Park gets \$3 million

*City of Glendale reaps benefits from Urban Park Act of 2001, a bill that sets aside funding for parks in dense urban areas.*

**(GLENDALE, CA)** -- Maple Park in the city of Glendale will receive \$3 million in state funding from the state's historic urban parks program, established by Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer during his first term in the Assembly.

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*"Growing up in Glendale, I know how badly this community needs more open space and recreational areas for children," Frommer said. "I am pleased that through my Urban Parks Act of 2001, cities like Glendale that desperately need more open space can receive the funding they need for new parks."*

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In 2001, Frommer successfully created the single largest urban parks program in the nation's history. His legislation, Assembly Bill 1481, earmarked \$140 million for the building of parks and recreation areas in dense urban areas. In the Los Angeles area, only 10% of the city is dedicated to park space, significantly less than other major cities and about half of the amount of dedicated park space in New York City (18.9%).



The city of Glendale will use the \$3 million grant to improve Maple Park, including constructing a new 8,000 square-foot gymnasium and multi-purpose recreation building, a new group picnic shelter to accommodate 40 people, a food preparation area with utilities, new individual picnic facilities and a new restroom building at the east end of the park. Maple Park is located in one of the most densely urban, underserved areas of the Glendale community. ♦

## Community invited to public safety breakfast with AG

*Attorney General Bill Lockyer and Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer discuss public safety issues at community breakfast.*

**(GLENDALE, CA)** -- California state Attorney General Bill Lockyer visited Glendale to meet with and discuss public safety and law enforcement issues with community leaders over a breakfast hosted by Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer (D-Glendale).

"I think it's crucial for local leaders and statewide officials to share ideas and concerns, especially on a topic as important as public safety and law enforcement," Frommer said. "Bringing Attorney General Bill Lockyer here is one way to ensure that communication between local governments and the state remain open and productive."

The breakfast included a discussion by Lockyer regarding the startling rise of youth gang homicide and violence throughout Los Angeles County, as well as Megan's Law, which will provide the public with Internet access to detailed information on registered sex offenders.

The breakfast is the first in a series of breakfasts Frommer is planning to host in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District. Each event will bring local community leaders to the table with statewide officials for the exchange of ideas, concerns and dialogue. The public safety breakfast is cosponsored by the Burbank Police Officers Association, Glendale Police Officers Association and the Glendale Citizens for Law and Order.

Other guests at the event included Glendale Police Chief Randy Adams, Burbank Police Chief Tom Hoefel, newly appointed California Highway Patrol Commissioner Mike Brown and other community leaders from the 43<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District. ♦

## WATCH...

### "CAPITOL CONNECTION" WITH ASSEMBLYMAN DARIO FROMMER

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CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, CHANNEL 25